



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF BRIGADE COUNCIL

held by Video Conferencing
on 4th September 2021

The meeting was chaired by David Aubrey QC (Brigade Vice President) and joining David at Felden Lodge were Steve Mann (Brigade Treasurer), Rev Leigh Maydew (Brigade Chaplain) and Jonathan Eales (Chief Executive). In total 144 leaders had registered to attend the meeting online, representing all parts of the UK and RoI.

1. WELCOME

David Aubrey welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that following the success the online format last year, and due to the uncertainty that remains around the pandemic, we were again holding the meeting virtually. However, it was hoped that in 2022 it will be possible to hold a face-to-face conference and the plan is for this to be held somewhere in Northern Ireland.

Members were reminded that all the papers required for the meeting had been made available to download from the website.

A total of 84 votes had been registered. These were comprised of 42 ordinary votes and 42 Postal votes.

The process for voting and speaking during the meeting was explained.

2. OPENING WORSHIP & COMMEMORATION

The Brigade Chaplain, Rev Leigh Maydew was invited to lead the opening devotions and to lead the act of commemoration. A time of silence was observed to remember those that had died since the last the AGM was held, and to give thanks for all they had contributed to the organisation.

3. MESSAGE OF LOYAL GREETINGS TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, OUR PATRON

The President read the message of loyal greeting sent to Her Majesty The Queen:

“Members of The Boys’ Brigade wish to convey to Your Majesty, our Patron, loyal and affectionate greetings on the occasion of our Annual General Meeting of the Brigade Council to be held by video conferencing on 4th September 2021.

Earlier in the year we launched an ambitious new five-year strategy focussing on the quality and consistency of experience for Children and Young People. This strategy will guide our work in the years ahead as we provide opportunities for Children and

Young People to learn, grow and discover.
As we continue to strive to advance Christ's Kingdom, we greatly appreciate your continued interest in our movement

Jonathan Eales, Chief Executive”

Her Majesty graciously replied as follows:

“Please convey my thanks to the members of The Boys’ Brigade for their loyal greetings, sent on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Brigade Council which is being held today via video conferencing.

As your Patron, I was interested to learn of the five-year strategy that was launched earlier this year to guide the future work of the organisation.

Your continued support is much appreciated and, in return, I send my warm good wishes to all concerned.

ELIZABETH R”

4. ADOPTION OF BRIGADE COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Copies of the Standing Orders for Brigade Council had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was highlighted that these were a bespoke set of Standing Orders to take into account that we were holding the meeting virtually and were the same as the version used last year.

The Chair invited those that had registered to vote during the meeting to adopt the set of standing orders, and to appoint the Brigade Staff as tellers, by using the online voting functionality.

The meeting APPROVED the adoption of the Standing Orders and the appointment of Brigade Staff as tellers.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING OF BRIGADE COUNCIL – 2020

The minutes of the Brigade Council meeting held via video conferencing on 5th September 2020 were APPROVED as a correct record of proceedings.

6. REVIEW OF 2019/20 SESSION

The Chair acknowledged what a particularly difficult period the last twelve months had been for everyone, and invited the Chief Executive to share his reflections on the session and to introduce others that will be participating in this section of the meeting.

The Chief Executive began by thanking leaders for all they have done to continue to provide a caring, safe, and fun environment for Children and Young People during these challenging times.

Jonathan highlighted the support that had been provided to leaders, and the way the programme resources have been developed including the launch of the new over 11s Programme. Attention was drawn to the Open To Campaign which aims to support leaders connect with local communities and recruit new members.

Jonathan explained that every decision made is based on how best to deliver the five-year strategy to improve the quality and consistency of experience for Children and Young People.

An annual review document including the key facts and figures for the 2020/21 session had been made available prior to the meeting.

A short video presentation was played showcasing some of the year's highlights.

Following the video presentation Joe Harrison (Programme Officer) gave an update Programme, including the new resources and awards structure for over 11s, and Beth Dobson (North Scotland Development Worker) outlined the Open To Campaign in more detail.

Following a question, the Chief Executive explained that all the new badges and awards would be available to purchase by the end of the calendar year.

The Chair thanked Joe and Beth for their presentations.

7. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2020/21

David welcomed Steve Mann to the role of Treasurer, recognising that it has been a particularly challenging first year in the role. The audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2021 were presented by the Brigade Treasurer, Steve Mann.

The Auditors, Whiting and Partners, had given an unqualified Report on the Accounts and the supporting disclosures and documentation.

The Treasurer reported that due to the impact of the pandemic our income had fallen from £2.9m to £1.7m, however, our expenditure had fallen by a similar amount and therefore, the accounts show an overall surplus of £58k, before investment growth. It was explained that the growth in investments amounted to £236k.

The income includes a legacy and a number of donations which demonstrates people's generosity. The capitation fee income was down as less members were recorded on the statistical returns, as groups haven't been meeting face-to-face less uniform and other supplies products have been sold, and the conference and Training Centres haven't been able to operate which has also impacted income. However, the staff team have utilised the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme which has gone some way to offset the reduction in income.

Steve said that the Finance Committee reviewed the accounts quarterly and expressed the view that the costs were being managed exceptionally well. Steve went on to say that the Trustees believed that a good financial outcome had been achieved in the circumstances whilst improving the resources available to support leaders.

Steve commented that the balance sheet was strong for the size of the organisation at £4.8m. It was explained the majority of the assets (£3.5m) related to the properties of Felden Lodge and Carronvale House. The Brigade has £1m in investments and the remaining assets include £200k in cash.

It was also pleasing to note that no investment sales had been necessary in the past financial year to aid cashflow, although it was anticipated that investment sales would be required in the current financial year.

Looking ahead, Steve highlighted that the outlook remained uncertain as it is difficult to predict how our income streams will recover over the coming months. As a result, the Trustees have set a deficit budget for the current financial year. Steve explained that this was manageable due to the level of reserves, however, this could only be a short-term solution and the focus would be on increasing income.

The presentation of the financial statements was proposed by Steve Mann (Treasurer) and seconded by Ronnie Campbell (Member of the Brigade Executive and Finance Committee).

A question was asked about the possibility of selling the property assets, and in particular Carronvale House. In response the Treasurer said he had referred to the need to sell investments, and that it was likely that it would be necessary to sell £100k of investments over the next twelve month period.

The meeting APPROVED the adoption of the Accounts for the financial year ended 31st March 2021.

8. BRIGADE AUDITORS

The Treasurer proposed on behalf of the Executive that Whiting and Partners be reappointed as auditors of The Boys' Brigade and that the Brigade Executive be authorised to fix their remuneration.

Ronnie Campbell, Member of Brigade Executive and Finance Committee, seconded the proposal.

A question was asked if the Brigade Executive has explored to see if the current Auditors are the most cost-effective providers of this service.

Steve explained that it was the policy to regularly tender for this work, that this exercise was last undertaken a few years ago and that following this process Whiting & Partners were re-appointed, although it is our policy to regularly review this.

The meeting APPROVED the appointment of Whiting & Partners as the independent auditors of the Brigade until the conclusion of the next AGM.

9. CAPITATION FEES FOR THE 2021/22 SESSION

The Chair explained that the proposal had been circulated to members and that Jonathan had written to leaders explaining the rationale for the proposed capitation fee increase.

On behalf of the Brigade Executive Ronnie Campbell proposed the capitation fees for the 2021/22 session. The meeting was reminded that the proposal included a £1.50 increase deferred from the 2020/21 session, where this had not been implemented to help support Companies through lockdown.

It was explained that the financial position is challenging, that costs are being well managed and that expenditure is being prioritised to support Companies. Members of the Brigade Executive consider this matter very carefully and the majority are serving Company leaders and recognise the challenges Companies face across the Brigade.

The proposal was seconded by Steve Mann, Brigade Treasurer.

Proposal Fees for the 2021/22 session

Fee Type	Level of Fee
Fee per Young Person	£24.00
All Officers	£24.00
(Second person at same address)	£20.00
Battalion & District Officers (not on Company Roll)	£24.00
Officers in full time education or training	£20.00
Helpers	£18.50

The fee in respect of an Associate Member is £28.00.

Following questions from members, the proposal was put to a vote and the meeting APPROVED the capitation fees for the 2021/22 session as proposed.

10. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2021/22 SESSION

The Chair explained that bios for those being nominated had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

On behalf of the Brigade Executive, Drew Buchanan MBE (Chair of Executive) proposed the Office Bearers for the 2021/22 session.

President:	Rev Dez Johnston
Vice President:	Mr David Aubrey Q.C. Mrs Alison Chambers Mr Mervyn Murdock Mr Ian Rumbelow
Chaplain	Rev Leigh Maydew
Treasurer:	Mr Steve Mann

The nominations were seconded by Lee Bird, on behalf of the Brigade Executive.

There were no questions from members.

Following individual votes for each Office-Bearer the meeting APPROVED all the appointments as proposed.

11. MOTION TO UPDATE SECTION TWO OF BRIGADE REGULATIONS (MISSION STATEMENT)

The Chair explained that the proposal in the name of the Brigade Executive was to replace the title and contents of Brigade Regulations Section Two (Mission Statement) with our vision, mission and values.

On behalf of the Brigade Executive Lee Bird proposed the motion. Lee explained that over the past 18 months the Brigade had been on a journey, and part of that had involved exploring our vision, mission and values with the wider Brigade family. We were a values based organisation but haven't previously communicated a clear set of values.

Lee highlighted the proposed wording for the vision, mission and values and emphasised that this were built on the object of the organisation.

VISION

Our vision is that "children and young people experience life to the full" – John 10:10

Our hope is that children and young people experience life to the full through coming to know Jesus for themselves.

MISSION

The Boys' Brigade has faith in young people and our mission is to provide them with opportunities to learn, grow and discover in a safe, fun and caring environment which is rooted in the Christian faith.

VALUES

Our organisational values describe who we are, what we believe and how we work:

Faith – We are a Christian youth organisation, and our work is rooted in the Christian Faith. We have a hope in Christ as our anchor that sustains us throughout life (Hebrews 6:19).

Caring – The Boys' Brigade is a family. We believe in building loving, caring and inclusive relationships, as well as creating a safe and fun environment that is supportive and nurturing. We are responsive to the needs and aspirations of others regardless of ability, identity, or background.

Inspiring – We seek to inspire children and young people, challenging them to live their lives in the fullest sense. We also believe in people's abilities to inspire and act as positive role models to others.

Trusting – We are honest and trustworthy. We seek to empower children and young people to participate and to lead, believing in their skills, abilities, and ideas.

The proposal was seconded by Rev Leigh Maydew, on behalf of the Brigade Executive.

Following questions, the proposal was APPROVED by the meeting.

12. TO TRANSACT ANY OTHER LAWFUL BUSINESS

The chair said that concern had been raised by Jim McVean (Glasgow Battalion) at the lack of engagement and attendance at these meetings, when important decisions are taken. In response David said that we should all be concerned by this and although it was something the Brigade Executive would consider, it was incumbent on all of us to encourage more leaders to participate in these discussions and debate.

Thanks were expressed to Rachael Knowles and Ashley Lampard who both stood down from the Executive on 31st August.

The Chair also paid tribute to the dedication of the staff team, the Brigade Executive and the various sub-committees for their tireless efforts over the past twelve months to steer the organisation through an incredibly difficult period.

David invited the newly elected President, Dez Johnston to address the meeting and to lead the closing devotions.

David thanked everyone for their attendance, reminded members that the next AGM is scheduled for 3rd September 2022 when it is hoped we will meet face-to-face.

Rev Leigh Maydew closed the meeting in prayer.